



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION FOR  
Infant Mental Health

Promoting, supporting, and strengthening children's earliest relationships  
prenatal to age six

*Infant mental health  
is about early  
relationships, their  
origin and their  
power.*

*Babies develop in  
the context of  
relationships.  
Warm, sensitive and  
predictable  
relationships build  
the rapidly  
developing brain.*

*Promoting these  
early powerful  
relationships is the  
work of  
professionals from  
many disciplines.*

November 19, 2020

The Connecticut Association for Infant Mental Health is pleased to name Doug Edwards as the recipient of the 2020 Jane C Bourns Award for Excellence. He received this award and was recognized at the CT-AIMH Fall Conference November 19, 2020.

The 2020 Jane C. Bourns Award was endowed to Doug Edwards, the founder and Director of Real Dads Forever, a Fatherhood Strategies Development organization here in Connecticut. Doug's work and way of being parallels Jane's in many ways; both are passionate leaders, dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect, remarkable in their tireless and focused energy, generous in their volunteerism and deeply committed to improving the lives of children and families in Connecticut.

We recognize Doug's significant contributions to the field of infant and young children's mental health in Connecticut and nationally, particularly your exceptional, innovative and critical work addressing fatherhood socio-culturally, in policies and provider practice.

Doug has developed a number of parent, paraprofessional and professional courses and workshops including The Value of a Man in the Life of a Child, Paternal Prenatal Early Attachment and Affirming the Roles of Family Men. The CT-AIMH provides a strong voice for infants and young children.

Doug Edwards provides a strong voice for their caregivers, who often themselves are unhealed from abuse, loss, trauma and disadvantage. By supporting fathers and mothers and helping them develop a parenting identity based on trust, love and commitment, Doug is cultivating attachment, the foundation of infant mental health. His work has directly changed father and family practice with countless families across Connecticut ...all with the hope, goal and evidence-based practice of cultivating healthy attachment between parents and their infants and young children.

Doug's exceptional, innovative and critical work spans over twenty-five years beginning in 1996 when the Real Dads Forever program began at Manchester Hospital. Since that time, he has worked on numerous community-based parent committees, provided training for almost every state agency, partnered extensively and broadly with many local and state coalition groups, and advocate fiercely on every level of community for fatherhood involvement and success.

We are indebted to Doug for his inspiration, persistence, and devotion to babies and young children and their families wherever they might be, and we celebrate his continued work and advocacy.

Warmly,

The CT-AIMH Board of Directors and the CT-AIMH Executive Director

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